

## 2021 Supreme Court Symposium: Panelist Biographies

### **Tatiana Masters, PhD, MSW, *UW School of Social Work***

Dr. Tatiana Masters is a social scientist who uses her quantitative and qualitative data analysis skills to produce research that influences decisions and makes an impact. Her current work with Evaluation Specialists supports projects including Washington State's CDC-funded Rape Prevention Education program. Her 15+ years of research experience spans fields of gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the intersection of gender equity and health, particularly gender-based and sexual violence prevention.

### **Amanda Gilman, PhD, MSW, *Washington State Center for Court Research***

Dr. Amanda Gilman is a Senior Research Associate with the Washington State Center for Court Research (WSCCR) at the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Dr. Gilman's research interests include juvenile incarceration and re-entry, status offenders in the juvenile justice system, and evidencebased programming. She previously worked as a Senior Research Associate at the National Gang Center and a Pre-Doctoral Research Associate at the University of Washington Social Development Research Group. Her community practice experience includes working as a Project Assistant at the San Bernardino, California Mayor's Office focusing on juvenile justice reform and community gang prevention. Dr. Gilman received her PhD in Social Welfare from the University of Washington, and holds a BA in Sociology and a Masters in Social Work.

### **Riley Hewko, *Transgender Law Center***

Riley Hewko (they/them) is a nonbinary, transqueer, Latinx lawyer and activist. In 2019, they helped launch a prison oversight agency at the Washington State Governor's Office of the Corrections Ombuds as the Gender Equity and Vulnerable Populations Specialist, supporting transgender, gendernonconforming (TGNC), and intersex individuals and those who identify as LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer) in Washington State prisons. They previously founded the Incarcerated Parents Project at the Washington Defenders Association in Seattle, WA and served as an Equal Justice Works fellow at Legal Voice, an If/When/How fellow at the National Women's Health Network, and a California Changelawyers fellow at the Transgender Law Center. They are currently Senior Legal Counsel at MoveOn and on the board of Beyond Binary Legal. They are a 2011 Graduate of the University of Washington School of Law and Gates Public Law Scholar.

### **Danny Waxwing, *Disability Rights Washington***

Danny Waxwing (he/him) is an attorney at Disability Rights Washington, where he leads the Trans in Prison (TIP) Justice Project. A graduate of the University of Washington School of Law, he was a Gates Public Service Law Scholar and focused his studies at the intersections of disability, gender, and racial justice. He entered legal advocacy with over a decade of experience in community projects working for reproductive justice, queer and trans liberation, and

transformative justice, and he continues to work closely with community organizations that focus on building collective wellness and relationship-based responses to harm.

**Renee Permenter, *Advocate for the Incarcerated***

Renee Permenter is a trans female contract consultant for DRW-TIPP, warehouse supervisor, graduate of business management, Member of Toastmasters International, and lover of all things positive. She loves to try new things and focuses on communication. She released from prison on July 7th after serving 10 years 10 months on a 10 year 6 month sentence. She desires nothing more than to help others transition in life, whether from prison to the free world or from one lifestyle to another. She believes all things can be understood if one simply takes the time to communicate.

**Andrea James, JD, *National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls***

Andrea James, JD, is the Founder and Executive Director of The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, Founder of Families for Justice as Healing, author of *Upper Bunkies Unite: And Other Thoughts on the Politics of Mass Incarceration*, a 2015 Soros Justice Fellow and. Recipient of the 2016 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award. As a former criminal defense attorney and a formerly incarcerated woman, Andrea shares her personal and professional experiences to raise awareness of the effects of incarcerating women on themselves, their children and communities. Her work is focused on ending incarceration of women and girls and contributing to the shift from a criminal legal system focused on police and prisons, to a system led by directly affected people from within their neighborhoods and based on individual and community accountability.

**Stephanie Covington, PhD, *Center for Gender and Justice***

Stephanie S. Covington, Ph.D., LCSW, is an internationally recognized clinician, author, lecturer, and organizational consultant. With over thirty-five years of experience, she is noted for her pioneering work in the design and implementation of gender-responsive and trauma-informed treatment services in public, private, and institutional settings. She is the author of numerous books, as well as ten research-based, manualized treatment curricula, including: *Beyond Trauma: A Healing Journey for Women*, *Helping Women Recover: A Program for Treating Addiction*, and *Voices: A Program for Girls*. She is the co-author of *Helping Men Recover*. For the past twenty-five years, Dr. Covington has worked to help institutions and programs in the criminal justice system develop effective gender-responsive and trauma-informed services. She has provided training and consulting services to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; the Ministries of Justice in England, Scotland, and Switzerland; the Correctional Service of Canada; and, in the U.S., the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the National Institute of Corrections, and many state and local jurisdictions. She has conducted seminars for behavioral health professionals, community organizations, criminal justice professionals, and

recovery groups in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Europe, Africa, Iceland, Brazil, and New Zealand. In addition, she helped to design women's services at the Betty Ford Center and was the featured therapist on the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) TV show entitled *Breaking Down the Bars*. Educated at Columbia University and the Union Institute, she is the co-director of the Institute for Relational Development and the Center for Gender & Justice located in La Jolla, California.

**Andrew Peterson, PhD, MS, *Washington State Center for Court Research***

Andrew Peterson has a B.A. from the University of Michigan, a M.S. in Criminal Justice Administration from San Diego State University, and a PhD. in Criminology, Law & Society from the University of California, Irvine. He has been a Senior Research Associate for the Washington State Center for Court Research for the past six years, working on issues of recidivism, racial/ethnic disproportionality, and pretrial reform. Prior to coming to the AOC, he worked as a Research Associate for the United States Sentencing Commission where he was involved in a variety of research projects, including: crack cocaine offender recidivism, child pornography offending and sentencing, and supervision revocations and modifications. Andrew has also published his own research on case studies of white collar crime.

**Gilda Sheppard, PhD, MSW, *Evergreen State College***

Gilda Sheppard is a Professor of Sociology, Cultural and Media studies at The Evergreen State College Tacoma Campus.

Sheppard is an award-winning filmmaker who has screened her documentaries throughout the United States, and internationally in Ghana, West Africa, and at the Festival Afrique 360 Cannes, France, and in Germany at the International Black Film Festival in Berlin. Sheppard is a 2017 Hedgebrook Fellow for documentary film and a 2019 recipient of an Artist Trust Fellowship. Sheppard currently completed her documentary *Since I Been Down* on education, organizing, transformative justice, and healing developed and led by incarcerated women and men in Washington State's prisons. *Since I Been Down* has been accepted at over 13 film festivals in USA and Canada and won the Gold Prize at the Social Justice Film Festival and recognized among "Best of the Fest" at DOC NYC.

For over a decade Sheppard has taught sociology courses in Washington State prisons. She is a sponsor for the Black Prisoners' Caucus, and is a co-founder and faculty for FEPPS- Freedom Education for Puget Sound an organization offering college credited courses at Washington Correctional Center for Women.

Sheppard is the author of several publication's including *Culturally Relevant Arts Education for Social Justice: A Way Out of No Way* (2013)

**Kimberly Mays, MPA, *Washington Office of Public Defense***

Kimberly Mays is a Contracted Social Worker with the Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD), Parents Representation Program. Prior to her joining OPD in 2014, she was responsible for creating and leading the King County Superior Court, Parents for Parents (P4P) program for 5 years. Before moving on to OPD, Kimberly was able to help create a P4P Jail Project, helping incarcerated parents with an open dependency case effectively engage in their dependency case and use their voice to advocate for the needs of their children, while incarcerated. Kimberly helped P4P to become a Promising Practice and become the State Model through a bill, passed into law by Gov. Inslee in 2015, and to be replicated across Washington State by 2021.

Ms. Mays is a parent who has been incarcerated over 40 times and has accumulated 23 felony and 4 misdemeanor convictions, and who has turned her personal experience in the criminal justice and child welfare systems, as well as her formal education, into a passionate mission to help improve policies and practices that impact children and families involved in our social systems. Over the years, she has served on numerous committees to help improve the outcomes for families in child welfare, mental health, substance abuse treatment, corrections and re-entry systems. She currently serves on the Casey Family Programs' Strategic Innovations Team, Birth Parent Advisory Committee, Birth and Foster Parent Partnership Committee, and as a member of the WA State Children of the Incarcerated Coalition, to name a few. Most recently she has become a Licensed Foster Parent in the State of WA.

Ms. Mays received a B.A. and a Master's in Public Administration from The Evergreen State College.

### **Sabrina Kendall, *Black Prisoners' Caucus***

Sabrina Kendall is a 46-year-old Black mother of four adult children. She grew up in Puyallup, Washington, which was not culturally diverse in the 80's making it intolerable for her, causing her to run away. After running away, she fell into a "street" lifestyle which led to her introduction to the criminal justice system at a very early age. Ms. Kendall is currently serving a 27-year sentence for a serious violent crime. During her incarceration, she has chosen to take advantage of educational opportunities, earning a certificate in Horticulture Science. She is currently working on obtaining an AA degree in liberal arts through Freedom Education Project Puget Sound. Ms. Kendall believes higher education is the pathway that led to her confidence, leading to her becoming a contributing member both inside and outside of the prison walls. Ms. Kendall sits on the executive board of the Black Prisoners Caucus, serving as the Sargent of Arms in the WCCW chapter. Ms. Kendall has achieved Competent Communicator status in Toastmasters International and plans on using the skills she's learned to one day work with at risk youth.

### **Cheryl Lidel, *Black Prisoners' Caucus***

Cheryl Lidel is the former Vice President of The Black Prisoners' Caucus, WCCW Sector. She has been a leader at WCCW for over a decade. Ms. Lidel is known to her peers as "Mamma Cheryl" because she mothers the women at WCCW in every way.

It has long been a passion of Ms. Lidel's to be an example to other women at WCCW in an effort to show them that they don't have to stay the same; that there is great hope in the willingness to change. When she approaches an individual to deal with her brokenness she is listened to and taken seriously because most everyone knows what she went through to become whole. It is clear to her peers because of the way she lives her life that a sound mind is available to everyone who is willing to do the work and make the sacrifices.

While Cheryl has achieved much during her stay at the institution, her calling is to preach, teach and minister the word of God. If you enter the WCCW Chapel, you will often find that Cheryl Lidel is the Preacher. There are many nights that she falls into bed exhausted because while the work Cheryl does full-time for Correctional Industries Textile is extensive, to her, the real job is to keep the women of Purdy encouraged, built up and filled with hopeful expectancy for a changed life.

Ms. Lidel is 62-years-old and has lived in Seattle Washington all of her life. Upon her release, it is her fondest hope to be able to retrieve kids from the clutches of drug abuse, crime and incarceration through her own tragic story and the hard-won victory that is now her life. Cheryl is confident that young people can be taught to fight the hardships of life in the right way before they get into the system.

Ms. Lidel is a certified pet care provider, a certified dog trainer; she is an artist who draws and paints and she has written a children's book designed to encourage children to eat their vegetables entitled "The Legend of Lagostley."

### **Theresa Power-Drutis, *New Connections***

Theresa began serving as executive director of New Connections in 2010. New Connections supports women taking steps toward a successful transition with safe housing in a welcoming community, advocacy, networking, and resource coaching. Theresa received her PhD in Leadership Studies from Gonzaga University, MA in Education from Eastern Washington University, and Certificate of Carpentry from the Samuel Gompers Technical School at Seattle Central Community College. She was a founding member of the G Street Community, an intentional community in Tacoma that includes two small shelters operated by New Connections. Irma's Place is a shelter for women recently released from correctional facilities. Annie's Cottage is a 2-bedroom shelter for women with minor children.

Theresa's current affiliations include the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, Steering Committee; Pierce County Safe Sites for All, Team Member; League of Women Voters Tacoma/Pierce, Board Member; St. Leo Homelessness Workgroup, Trainer/Community

Organizer; Hilltop Madrinas (Neighborhood “godmothers” strengthening the commons); and Race & Pedagogy Institute, University of Puget Sound, Community Partner.

Theresa lives and works in the G Street Community in Tacoma's Hilltop neighborhood.

**Kristina Peterson, *Community Reentry Advocate***

Kristina N. Peterson is a mixed cultural Ohio Native who has resided in Washington State since 2012. In 2018 she was sentenced for drug possession and delivery offenses to 72 months in the Department of Corrections. While in prison Ms. Peterson participated in numerous classes, conferences and workshops to not only gain knowledge and insight for her own higher learning but blaze a trail for women, men and families struggling with addiction, surviving childhood trauma and becoming caught in the forever revolving door of the criminal justice system. At Mission Creek Correction Center for Women, Kristina participated in the Red Willow Wellbriety Program, a 12-step program rooted in Native American Cultural Teachings. Kristina attended an Entrepreneur certificate program through Tacoma Community College, where she studied small business ownership and the import and export of goods and services. Kristina also obtained certificates in Accounting Office Assistant and Customer Service Management, while working towards an A.A Degree in Applied Science. While working hard on her recovery, Kristina maintained a 4.0 grade-point average.

Drawing on her experience fighting Child Protective Services to maintain rights to her two small children, Kristina felt a desire and passion to fight above and beyond state and federal guidelines for her rights as a parent and as a woman of cultural background. Kristina studied government policies and Washington laws surrounding child welfare and barriers within the system. Kristina worked to implement a legal research kiosk at Mission Creek and, when a Law Library became available in the Spring of 2019, Kristina utilized the skills and knowledge she had learned to assist fellow inmates. She helped three women achieve Power of Attorney (to a trusted individual), parenting plans (safe visiting/healthy planning), and reunification with family/friends.

Kristina also became lead facilitator for a subcommittee in the inmate-led Women’s Legacy Life Skills program. She facilitated multiple classes teaching women to communicate effectively while practicing conflict resolution skills, domestic violence awareness, and recovering from self-harm and suicidality. Kristina also passionately facilitated Parenting classes specifying the importance on parent/child bonds, family dynamics and using non-violent communication techniques.

Kristina successfully reentered the community through work release with support from her mentor Kimberly Mays. Kristina is also a mentor. She continues to blaze a positive trail for prison and child welfare reform, including working with policy makers in hopes to re-open

contact in cases where incarceration played a key factor in the termination of parental rights. Kristina Peterson is definitely a name you will hear in the future!

**Angela Y. Davis, PhD, MA, *University of California, Santa Cruz***

Through her activism and scholarship over many decades, Angela Davis has been deeply involved in movements for social justice around the world. Her work as an educator – both at the university level and in the larger public sphere – has always emphasized the importance of building communities of struggle for economic, racial, and gender justice.

Professor Davis' teaching career has taken her to San Francisco State University, Mills College, and UC Berkeley. She also has taught at UCLA, Vassar, Syracuse University the Claremont Colleges, and Stanford University. Most recently she spent fifteen years at the University of California Santa Cruz where she is now Distinguished Professor Emerita of History of Consciousness – an interdisciplinary Ph.D program – and of Feminist Studies.

Angela Davis is the author of ten books and has lectured throughout the United States as well as in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and South America. In recent years a persistent theme of her work has been the range of social problems associated with incarceration and the generalized criminalization of those communities that are most affected by poverty and racial discrimination. She draws upon her own experiences in the early seventies as a person who spent eighteen months in jail and on trial, after being placed on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted List." She also has conducted extensive research on numerous issues related to race, gender and imprisonment. Her recent books include *Abolition Democracy* and *Are Prisons Obsolete?* about the abolition of the prison industrial complex, a new edition of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, and a collection of essays entitled *The Meaning of Freedom*. Her most recent book of essays, called *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement*, was published in February 2016.

Angela Davis is a founding member of Critical Resistance, a national organization dedicated to the dismantling of the prison industrial complex. Internationally, she is affiliated with Sisters Inside, an abolitionist organization based in Queensland, Australia that works in solidarity with women in prison.

Like many educators, Professor Davis is especially concerned with the general tendency to devote more resources and attention to the prison system than to educational institutions. Having helped to popularize the notion of a "prison industrial complex," she now urges her audiences to think seriously about the future possibility of a world without prisons and to help forge a 21st century abolitionist movement.

## **Minority and Justice Commission 2021 Symposium Planning Committee:**

### **Justice Mary I. Yu, *Co-chair, Washington State Minority and Justice Commission***

Mary Yu was appointed to the Washington Supreme Court on May 16, 2014, and subsequently elected in 2014 and 2016. Justice Yu joined the Supreme Court after more than 14 years as an accomplished trial court judge in King County Superior Court where she presided over a wide variety of criminal, civil, and juvenile cases, and presided over hundreds of adoptions and other family law matters.

Prior to becoming a judge, Justice Yu served as Deputy Chief of Staff to King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng and as a deputy in the Criminal and Civil Divisions. Before attending law school, Justice Yu worked in the Peace and Justice Office for the Archdiocese of Chicago first as staff and later as Director of that office following her appointment to the position by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin.

Justice Yu has an extensive record of service both on and off the bench, mentoring young attorneys, law clerks, and students; co-chairing the Court's Minority and Justice Commission; chairing the Board for Judicial Administration's Public Trust and Confidence Committee; teaching at Seattle University School of Law and serving as Jurist in Residence; and co-chairing the Washington State Bar Association/University of Washington Law School Leadership Institute. Justice Yu has served on the board of FareStart from 2009 - 2018, and the advisory board for the University of Washington School of Law's Gates Public Service Program from 2014 - 2018. She is personally devoted to the Seattle Girls' School Mock Trials, serving as their judge for the last 14 years. Justice Yu is a member of the American Law Institute.

Justice Yu was raised in Bridgeport, a South Side neighborhood in Chicago, by immigrant parents; her mother came from Mexico and her father from China. She is the first in her family to graduate from college. She received her B.A. from Dominican University, her M.A. in Religious Studies from Mundelein College of Loyola University in Chicago, and her J.D. from the University of Notre Dame Law School. Justice Yu is the first Asian, the first Latina, and the first member of the LGBTQ community to serve on the Washington State Supreme Court.

### **Judge Maureen McKee, *King County Superior Court***

Maureen McKee is a judge with the King County Superior Court. Prior to joining the bench in 2018, Judge McKee was a staff attorney and supervisor for almost sixteen years with The Defender Association, a division of the King County Department of Public Defense, working closely with juveniles and adults swept up into the criminal justice system. Throughout her career, even prior to becoming a public defender, Judge McKee has demonstrated a commitment to serving and to protecting vulnerable populations.

### **Chanel Rhymes, *Northwest Community Bail Fund***

Chanel Rhymes is the co-owner of Monarch Consulting LLC and the Director of Advocacy for the Northwest Community Bail Fund. Prior to joining the Northwest Community Bail fund, Chanel served as the Court Program Analyst for the Washington Supreme Court Minority and Justice Commission, executing the mission of ensuring that all courts in the state of Washington remain free of bias so that justice might be adjudicated in a neutral and fair manner. Previously, she was a Program Manager for the Freedom Education Project of Puget Sound where she developed and coordinated college courses for women seeking to attain their AA degrees while incarcerated at the Washington Correction Center for Women.

Chanel has worked with the Council of State Governments Justice Center, supporting their work on national criminal justice reform. She also has legislative experience as a Political Field Organizer and as a Legislative Liaison for the Washington Student Association, where she lobbied for the interests of students in higher education around issues of affordability, administration transparency, and accessibility. She completed internships with the Statewide Poverty Action Network and the Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association's Volunteer Legal Services clinic. She was raised in Tacoma, Washington, and received her BA from Evergreen State College with a focus in Law and Government Policy.

***Dalia Pedro Trujillo, Gonzaga University School of Law***

Originally from Oaxaca, Mexico, Dalia Pedro Trujillo is a recent graduate from Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane, Washington. As an undocumented immigrant, and a DACA recipient, she understands that the impacts of the law can be personal, and have an immense effect in people's lives. Her experience as an immigrant in the United States has taught her how to navigate two cultures that do not fully accept her as one. This has led to her existing in a quasi-status in this country that she now calls home. This is what drove her to pursue a law degree, and why she is passionate about immigration and criminal defense.

***Elizabeth Hendren, Northwest Justice Project***

Elizabeth Hendren is a staff attorney at Northwest Justice Project. In 2012, she created the Reentry Initiated through Services and Education (RISE) Project, which provides comprehensive civil legal services to currently and formerly incarcerated mothers to facilitate family reunification. Elizabeth also serves on the Washington State Supreme Court Gender & Justice Commission, where she chairs the Incarceration, Gender & Justice Committee.

Prior to law school, Elizabeth spent seven years as a community organizer for increased funding for public education, increased access to affordable housing, prison education, and support for internally displaced Katrina survivors. Her passion for supporting families in crisis comes from her own lived experience growing up with a single mother who struggled with addiction, and her resulting experiences with housing and food insecurity as a high school student.

***Frank Thomas, Washington State Minority and Justice Commission***

Frank Thomas is the Senior Court Program Analyst for the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission. He has a B.A. in Finance and Marketing from the University of Washington, and graduated in 2019 from the University of California, Irvine School of Law. Frank left private business to pursue a career advancing social justice, working on various public interest projects in law school including the Initiative to End Family Violence and the UCI Law International Human Rights Clinic.

Since joining the Commission staff, Frank has lead community forums in the wake of 2020's demonstrations against systemic racism, co-authored original research on Washington girls of color in detention, and represented the Commission in various stakeholder groups confronting numerous issues of minority equity and justice under law.

**Jaime Hawk, *ACLU of Washington***

Jaime Hawk is Legal Strategy Director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington's Campaign for Smart Justice, where she leads on a range of issues to reform the state's criminal legal system. She was previously an Assistant Federal Defender for seven years and a law clerk to a federal judge. She began her legal career as an attorney fellow on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee staff of Edward M. Kennedy in Washington, D.C.

Hawk is a member of the ABA House of Delegates and serves on the national Council of the ABA Criminal Justice Section and the executive committee of the WSBA Civil Rights Section. She has taught as an adjunct law professor at Gonzaga University, where she attended law school as a Thomas More Scholar. She has served in access-to-justice leadership efforts, including as a member of the Washington Task Force on Unaccompanied Children. She is a past recipient of the Washington Defender Association President's Award and Gonzaga Law School's Myra Bradwell Award for commitment to furthering women and children's rights through the law.

**Marla Zink, *Luminata Law, PLLC***

Marla Zink is an attorney whose practice focuses on criminal defense on appeal and in post-conviction matters. Marla practices at every level of our state and federal courts. In 2019, she partnered with Kathleen Shea to form Luminata, PLLC. Luminata serves private and public defense clients in their direct criminal appeals and all forms of post-conviction relief.

Prior to forming Luminata, Marla served clients in federal and state court at The Law Office of Marla Zink, PLLC, and previously spent eight years at the Washington Appellate Project, where she represented indigent clients in direct criminal appeals and post-conviction proceedings.

Marla has been practicing appellate law since she graduated *cum laude* from Georgetown University Law Center. She moved to Seattle to serve as a law clerk to the Honorable Robert R. Beezer on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. After clerking, Marla worked in the Appellate, Constitutional and Governmental Law group at Preston, Gates and Ellis, which

became K&L Gates LLP. Marla is a member of the Washington Appellate Lawyers Association (WALA), the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (WACDL), the Washington Defender Association (WDA), and a past executive committee member of the KCBA Appellate Practice Section. She is also Lead Author of the chapter on the incarceration of women in Washington in the Gender and Justice Commission's forthcoming report, scheduled for release in August 2021.